

## Preface

*United States Cancer Statistics: 2002 Incidence and Mortality* is a joint publication of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia; the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, Maryland; and the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) in Springfield, Illinois. This is the fourth annual joint report produced, in collaboration with NAACCR, by the two federal programs that support population-based cancer registries in the United States: CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) and NCI's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program. This report contains official federal government cancer statistics for more than 1 million invasive cancer cases diagnosed during 2002 among residents of 44 states, 6 metropolitan areas, and the District of Columbia, and these geographic areas are inhabited by about 93% of the U.S. population. Data from population-based central cancer registries in these states and metropolitan areas meet the selected criteria for inclusion in this report (see "Registry Eligibility Criteria" in the Technical Notes).

In addition to cancer incidence data, we present cancer mortality data collected and processed by CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Mortality statistics, based on records of deaths that occurred during 2002, are available for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The age-adjusted incidence and death rates are adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population, consistent with rates published in previous *United States Cancer Statistics* reports. Readers should not compare these data with published cancer rates that were not adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard.

The race and ethnicity categories have been expanded this year to include national cancer incidence and mortality data for American Indians/Alaska Natives. In addition, malignant brain and central nervous system cancer incidence data are provided for the United States, categorized by histologic subtype, age, and sex. In future reports, more comprehensive cancer statistics will be provided while maintaining high-quality data standards.

A Web-based version of the report with current (2002) and updated (1999–2001) cancer incidence and mortality statistics is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/npcr/uscs>. Data at this Web site are provided in an HTML format that can be viewed in a variety of ways. A downloadable ASCII-formatted version of the data that can be manipulated to meet the needs of the user is also available.